20¢

The Long Island FISHERMAN

NOVEMBER 30, ISSUE NO. 46, 1972

THE FINNISH MINNOW, PAST AND PRESENT

THE TIMES they are a changing, so says the song, and sometimes the harried outdoor writer has trouble in keeping up. The Rapala lure (introduced in 1948, when your reporter was a non-fishing pre-schooler) is the original Finnish minnow, and the Myriad manufacturers who have since come out with something similar, are merely imitators. The first time I used one was in 1960, or thereabouts, and my first impression was that this was a terrific bass lure, but the soft balsa lacked the durability for such toothy critters as pickerel. Not having kept abreast of developments, I went and put my foot in my mouth by pointing up this factor in an article (Bass Plugs - L.I.F., Vol. 7, No. 41, October 26th).

Although the balsa models are still made in the smaller sizes, and will serve nicely for those who fish for bass only, Rapala now comes in magnum models. These improved versions (in 5½ and 7" sizes) are made of tough odum wood, with a through wire, and plastic coating to protect the finish. The magnum models are built to withstand the assaults of such lure destroyers as big bluefish, so it's a cinch that a pickerel is not going to be able to damage them. Besides being almost indestructable, they are slightly heavier than the balsa, and therefore cast easier, particularly in a wind. Things have changed indeed.

Don Vetter

HOME STUDY BOATING?

All boatowners and would-be boatowners, and their boating friends are invited to join our group of fellow conversant boatmen at our Thursday evening "Round Table," December 7, 1972 at 8:15 P.M.

Flotilla 12-1, Coast Guard Auxiliary, has planned this meeting around the "Merits of Self-instructional Courses on Boating and Seamanship," designed to aid those unable or unwilling to attend the live courses given by the trained Auxiliary Volunteer Instructors.

Encompassed will be the latest Coast Guard releases, "U.S. Coast Guard Skippers Course," "(Almost) Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Boating . . . But Were Ashamed to Ask," also recommended supporting material available at local libraries, together with a new innovation developed by the Flotilla to help get you through the rough spots.

These meetings will continue on a First Thursday monthly basis throughout the non-boating season and will increase in tempo to bimonthly and weekly as the demand arises. Subjects will rotate with the season right down to "What to do in the water" next spring.

For more information on this Free Round Table exchange of knowledge progtam, please send a post card to MGRO-USCG Aux., 90 Emerson Dr., Great Neck, N.Y. 11023, or better still, attend the seminar - Bayside Yacht Club, 216-50 28th Avenue, Bayside, N.Y. at 8:15 P.M., Thursday, December 7th, 1972.

****

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

"Santo's Tournament of Bass Contest"
(For Boatmen Only)

1st Place 44 lb. Striper $270.00 & Trophy
Boat—Five-J's
Capt.—R. Jessup
Angler—R. Schwartz

2nd Place 41 lb. Striper $112.50 & Trophy
Boat—Gala III
Capt.—J. Scarfi
Angler—B. Cali

3rd Place 40lb. 8oz. Striper $67.50 &Trophy
Boat—Pipp
Capt.—D. Rhodes
Angler—S. Rhodes, Jr.

Second place winners in the Santo's Tournament of Bass Contest. (Left) Bob Cali, (right) Joe Scarf.

Dear Sirs:

In your November 9, 1972 issue you printed a letter from a man saying he was mad because one of the mates of a Freeport boat was fishing and won the pool.

I happen to know the boat and the man he was talking about. This man is not a mate, just a good friend of the mates and the captain. He goes out on this boat every Monday and pays his fare and pool money like everyone else. The letter that the man wrote no doubt hurt this boat's business so I hope you will print this letter and set the people straight.

Sincerely,
Harry Waltman, Baldwin, N.Y.

Dear Sirs:

In your November 16th issue of L.I.F. you show on Pg. 10, Karl Schauffel, of Port Jefferson, holding a 21 lb. 4 oz. striped bass. Sure don't look like bass to me, looks more like a bluefish, don't you think?

Sincerely,
Artie Kaiser

The more I look, the more I am inclined to agree with you.

A note to tell you we got two spikes opening day and one on Wednesday. Average weight about 150 lbs. A sixteen year old boy shot a ten point buck but when he started to go toward it the buck got up fell off the ledge he was on and got away. Bear droppings were sited by our hunters but they have not been able to get him yet. On opening day the sun rose up and deer were everywhere but the marksmen were not. Shots rang out loud and clear form our twenty hunters. All had an opportunity to bag one but most missed their shots. The ten-eight pointers are still around and we still have room for the rest of the hunting season.

Cordially,
Arnold DiSilvestro, Owner

WIN-HEN MOTEL
Route 97 RD 2
Narrowsburg, New York 12764
(914) 252-3385

POLLOCK

The Long Island
FISHERMAN

THE LARGEST WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

VOL. 7, NO. 46 NOVEMBER 30, 1972

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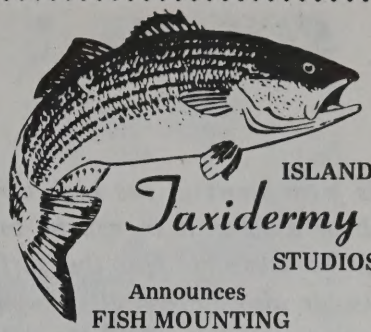
The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two (2) weeks in February, by the L.I.F. Publishing Corp., L.I.F. Building, 8 West 7th Street, P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729. Telephone (516) 667-6633. Second class postage is paid at Deer Park. 20¢ a copy; 1 year, 50 issues, $6.00; 2 years, 100 issues, $11.00; 3 years, 150 issues, $15.00. Back issues are sold for 35¢ a copy. Photographs and written contributions are welcomed. Unsolicited contributions become the property of the Long Island Fisherman. Any contributions that are to be returned must be accompanied by a written request and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Letters to the editor requiring a written answer must also include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All consideration will be given these requests, however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notices of change of address must include both the old and the new address. Allow two weeks for change. The contents herein may not be reprinted without the permission of the publisher.

FRONT PAGE PHOTO

The majority of open and charter boats have now turned to the codfish. As the weather and the water turns colder, the cod can be found close to shore, and so the captains find it profitable to ply these waters. Our front page photo shows Tom Wier, of Trenton, N.J., with some cod, pollack and bluefish caught on a recent offshore trip aboard the "Jamaica," now sailing everyday from Brielle, N.J.



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ALL WORK DONE ON PREMISES

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The one designed to go farther, faster, drier, and softer in rough water than any other Boat its size.

Freeport
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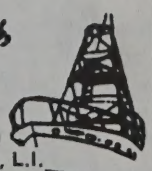
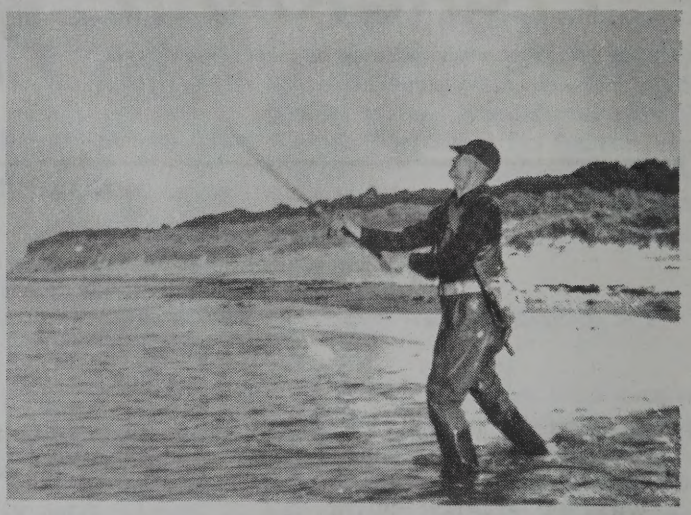
Inc.



(At Nassau Yacht Basin)
Ft. of So. Main St., Freeport, L.I.
(516) 379-3665 (On the Water)

STOP POLLUTION!
Keep our waters
CLEAN!

This great sport in the high surf is many things. Perhaps all that it is, can be told by mentioning what it takes to fish the surf. Stamina; but fortitude also. Physical strength; but also great pateince and skill. Athletic ability; and yet to be very observant of wild nature . . . It is fun to just 'go fishing,' and there is room for this too: simply 'to go fishing.' And yet there is also tradition in surfcasting; and standards of performance and of achievement. If you stick to the surf you may find some of these things startling in yourself; and you will find them in others. But you will find them above all in the great elders of surfcasting who have been fishing 30, 40, 50, 60 years and more. And, marvelously, they still hit the beaches today . . . But what was it like to fish our Long Island shores when you could still spot a sea hawk, often plummeting straight down into the swells and rising with a silver fish in its claws. - "It would first turn the fish's head into the wind," - we learn from Charlie Graves; "and then it would fly off." - Sol Carrol was the first to tell us of a long experience. Now, Charlie Graves. Once again, it would take a book to record all that I heard and saw. And once again our patriarch hailed from old Brooklyn.



CHARLIE GRAVES

PATRIARCHS OF THE SURF

PERHAPS when I was a boy I saw him on the Breezy Point Jetty. But long before I really met the man his name had reached me on Long Island beaches, and up in Rhode Island. Mostly it was a comment in a conversation like: - "And did you ever see one of the jigs made by Charlie Graves?" - Amongst knowing surfmen, his fame would have rested on this alone.

Shad Bill about summed this part up. "Anybody who gets one of his jigs can copy the mold. But it's not just the mold. It's the metal he uses; the finish he gets on it; and the workmanship that belongs to him alone . . . But just the finish on Charlie's jigs: it never dulls."

Neither has Charlie Graves dulled, in all of 78 years. When a big surf breaks in, he stands in it like a rock and then casts; and far enough with a beautiful 9-foot split bamboo rod (all aggot guides) and the Penn Squidder.

Examining a "sissy reel."

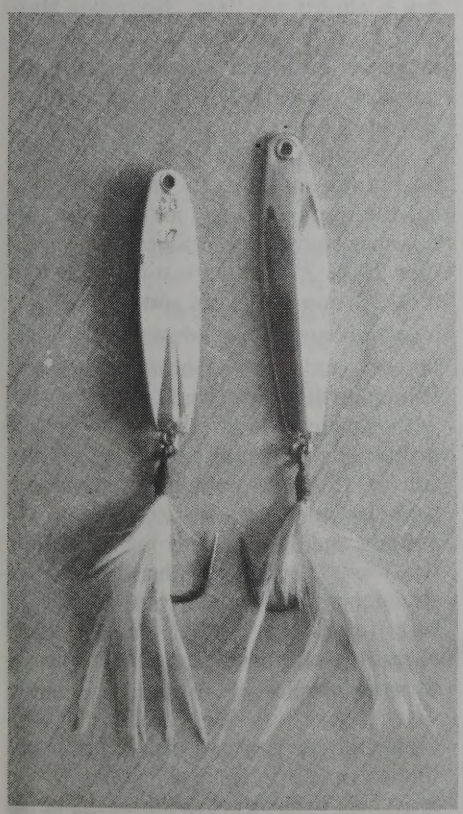
- "You thumb the sides of the revolving spool . . . Not the line on the spool. The sides."

The strong-voiced patriarch claims to be the first one to start using nylon line on the revolving spool. - "If you don't believe me, ask Cox over at Montauk . . . When Zimmerman wanted to bet me $500 that I could not cast the Squidder further than a spin reel, Cox convinced him not to bet against me."

One thing Charlie won't do anymore is drive an auto. Therefore his friends, fellows half his age who met him on the beaches, pick him up now to take him fishing: Big Davey; and Al Apmann when Al can go; and others.

But Davey I knew from fishing West End; and over the phone, Davey agreed that if ever there was a surf patriarch who could tell you a lot . . . Then I phoned Charlie. I must have said everything right, because he was very cordial. And he agreed that we could spend a couple of days fishing together. - "I'll tell you what it's all about." - But I never followed up. Then this year by chance I met Charlie and Al at Fire Island; and I went up and spoke to Charlie.

"Yes. I remember, buddy. So what happened?"



Legal tender on the beaches?

The sturgeon.

Now let me give a personal impression of mine. You must remember the actor, Humphrey Bogart? Despite my admiration for that talented actor, I feel that the original mold of Bogartism must be Charlie Graves. Except that his eyes are blue; and, they tell me, one eye is really glass, but - as Little Danny put it: - "he can spot bait with his one good eye quicker than I can with two."

That day Charlie, Al, Martha and I fished Fire Island's front and then Cedar Beach. Nothing. At dusk I repeated to Charlie my request to spend a couple of days with him, adding: " . . . and maybe we'll catch some fish." - Graves lowered his chin looking up at me and, as softly as he could: - "O, we'll catch fish. Don't you worry about it, buddy. We'll catch fish."

Subsequently I phoned and told Charlie of some fish on the north shore. However, these fish were hitting bait. - "Bait!" Charlie growled: "I don't use NO bait! I'm a jig-man, buddy. All on JIGS. SEE?"

Ok, Charlie.

We met at Fire Island and nearly everyone using those jigs caught fish: little rats and some small keeper bass. And one bluefish just under 12 pounds - beached of course by Charlie Graves. - "It made me work up a little sweat." - Big Davey, of whom the patriarch is very fond, convinced him to weigh in the fish (the Jones Beach Contest) just for that day. "It's the first fish I ever entered in any contest."

Our tough patriarch gave me a J-8, and (smiling broadly) gave Martha the J-7 . . . You need to understand that he is not making lures anymore. And when Jerry Foster, for example, who beached a 40-pounder at Cedar last year on a doctored-up Atom popper: when he heard that Charlie could no longer make jigs, he bought 25 of them . . .

But after getting home with our prized new lures, I phoned Charlie to thank him again, and to express how I wanted to bring him something when I visited. But I did not know what I could bring since he seemed to need nothing. I heard his laughter amid that hard strong voice: - "You shouldn't have to think too much about it, what to bring me. You can bring me a NICE BLOND!"

This past summer at night Charlie fished with Davey and the tribe along a certain flat-water shore, where they were catching weaks on the Shrimp Tout. Charlie used the "sissy reel" then. One night he was finishing a retrieve and he got a terrific strike. - "O Davey, I think I got a good one here." - It took a while for even Charlie to play in the shark: 4½ feet long . . .

One time on the Breezy Point Jetty in the early 1940's, - "I'll never forget: it was Thanksgiving Day" - Charlie got a 28 pound striper. He remembers the exact size of this smaller one of his many cow stripers, because that same day he caught a sturgeon. A sturgeon! Off the Breezy Point!

In the old days he camped out nearly all year by the Breezy Point, " . . . in a tent . . . from April, till when the first snow fell . . . We used to go into town Saturdays to get cleaned up."

The biggest striper he ever beached weighed 54 pounds; off a Long Beach jetty on one of his jigs; in the 1940's . . .

Continued On Page 14

SMALL BOAT COD

By Don Vetter

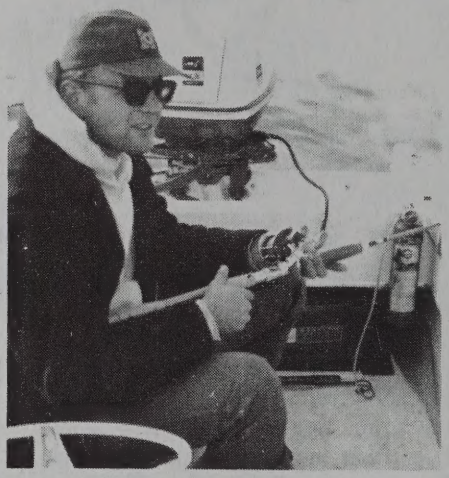
N THE COLD, GRAY LIGHT of dawn they set out. With a screech and squeal of protesting blocks, the dories were lowered from the mother ship into the frigid sea below. With a rythmic creek from the thole pins, each doryman began to row to his assigned fishing grounds. Tendrils of misty fog swirled about the schooner's topmasts as the first dory took up station and began to run out the 500 fathom tub line.

Deft fingers baited each hook with a chunk of salted mackerel, before it slipped down into the mysterious depths. Bundled in layers of woolen clothing beneath the "sou'wester," each doryman faced the long wait in the cold winds with nothing but a stone jug of scalding tea, laced with rum, to keep the chill from his bones. The ship's bell struck off the half hours in the distance. The occasional erratic flight of the stormy petrels ("Mother Carey's chickens," they called them), helped to break the monotony of the long wait.

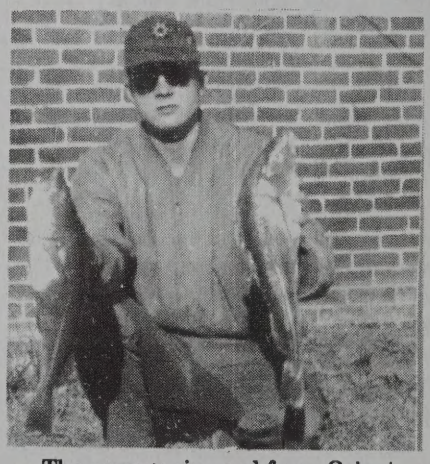
Finally the time came; first one, then another and another doryman began to take in his line. First a cod, then an empty hook, another cod, a haddock or perhaps (if lady luck smiled on them) a halibut, emerged one by one from the depths. So it went, till with catch aboard and tubline neatly stowed, they began the row back to the schooner in the gloom of approaching twilight. They quickly stomped their way below deck to shake off the numbing cold with a hot meal and some well earned sleep, while crewmen nested the dories, and Captain Northsworthy cast his cold, critical eye over the day's catch. Tomorrow it would begin all over again.

That was codfishing on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland in the last century. The ships came from as far off as Portugal (and still do), or as nearby as St. John's. Well I know, for the tales have been told me many times; Captain John Northsworthy was my great-great grandfather.

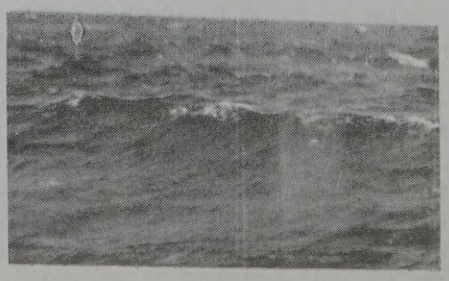
Call it atavism if you will, but I get a tremendous kick out of codfishing from a small, open boat, in imitation of my ancestor. True, oars have given way to outboard, wood to fiberglass, and the tubline to a rod and reel, but the cold winter sea is timeless and changeless.



Author fishes from Orient - early Dec.



The average size cod from Orient.



The winter sea.

Orient Point, at the East end of Long Island's North Fork, is a mecca for small boat cod men in the late fall and early winter. Most of the launching ramps in the area (Truman's Beach, for example) are rather soft sand, and suitable for only the lightest 'tin' craft. Port of Egypt Fishing Station maintains a good, aircraft-matting ramp at Orient, but the frequent fall storms often leave it choked with sand and gravel. For this reason I usually launch my boat at the Southold facility and make the run through Plum Gut. The aforementioned Port of Egypt can rent the non-boat-owner a seaworthy skiff right at Orient, and provide an interesting launch, via overhead trolley. This station is but minutes away from the cod grounds; stop off at Southold first, for a basket of skimmers, if you plan to fish from one of these rentals.

One particular day comes to mind in describing this fishing. Passing Petty's Bight, and its excellent big-flounder fishing, I head West to Mulford Point. Bundled against the chill, and with plenty of good, hot coffee aboard, it is quite comfortable, particularly as the day is almost windless. Rounding Mulford, I slow down, and maneuver among the assembled small boats. An occasional blip on the D/F indicates fish in 20 feet of water.

I generally prefer to drift, if the tide is not running too strongly, so I cut the motor and dad and I lower our skimmer-baited rigs. Since the depth runs 20 to 25 feet in most of the better spots, 3 ounce sinkers and rather light boat rods are employed; a far cry from the gear used aboard headboats, when fishing offshore wrecks.

The cod run rather small in the main; 3 to 7 pounds being average, but fish of 15 to 20 pounds and more are taken on occasion. Blackfish, up to 10 pounds and better, may be caught in the rocky areas, and the lack of an abundance of bergalls renders 'hard' baits (crabs) an option, rather than a necessity; skimmer clams can be made to serve for all.

Before too long, dad's rod tip dips, and he is into a fish. The cod, though small, puts up a more spirited resistance in the shallow water than one dredged from the depths ever would. I

Continued On Page 14

WRECKS, FISHING SPOTS AND THEIR NAMES

By Vlad Evanoff

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED how some of the more popular fishing spots got their names? If, for example, someone says he is going to fish the "Farms" or the "Subway Rocks" or the "Klondike," do you know how these spots got their names? There are many similar fishing spots along the Atlantic coast which have colorful or odd names with interesting histories.

Some of these names go way back even before salt-water sports fishing became very popular. They were named by commercial fishermen who fished for a living. Some of these same spots are now fished by sports fishermen and are still productive. A few of these spots have been located by party boat skippers, charter boat captains and other offshore sports fishermen.

The most fertile fishing grounds along the Atlantic coast are close to shore on the continental shelf. Parts of the shelf rise to form underwater mountains, plateaus, shoals or "banks." Here the water is usually shallower than the surrounding water. And the bottom usually has rocks, mussels, seaweed, crabs, lobsters and small fish. This cool food-rich water attracts "groundfish" or bottom fish which in turn attract even larger gamefish.

The North Atlantic is particularly rich in such fishing grounds with the New England, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Banks being fished by commercial fleets from the United States, Canada and in recent years by many other countries. The famed "Georges Banks" and "Brown's Banks" east of Cape Cod have been fished by New England boats from way back for swordfish, cod, haddock, pollock, hake and flounder. They have been heavily overfished and aren't as productive as they once were.

Many of these commercial fishing spots are too far offshore for the average sports fisherman to reach with his small boat. Those that are close to shore are often fished by sports fishermen. Two spots with strange names which are close to shore are found off Massachusetts. One is the "Hen and Chickens" and the other is the "Sow and Pigs" reef off the southwest end of Cuttyhunk Island. They got their names from the rock formations resembling these animals. The Sow and Pigs reef is a hot spot for striped bass.

Off Nantucket, Mass., striped bass anglers fish many rips around this island, one of which is called the "Old Man Rip." Also off Massachusetts are the "Elizabeth" Islands named way back around 1600 by the English navigator, Bartholomew Bosnold after the queen. Many spots in New England are named by or after INdians such as "Menemsha Bight" and "Gay Head" which are two good spots for striped bass on Martha's Vineyard.

Closer to home, the LOng Island and New Jersey coasts have a wealth of fishing spots, inshore and offshore, which have provided sport and fish for millions of anglers throught he years. In additon to banks, ledges and shoals, there are many submerged wrecks here of ships which were sunk by storms, fire or German submarines during the wars.

Wrecks, of course, provide good fishing because as they age, they become covered with mussels, barnacles, seaweed, and so attract crabs, lobsters, and other marine life. Smaller fish hide and live in the wrecks. All this draws bigger fish including bottom species and gamefish.

Some of the older wrecks have been known for years; others have been discovered by commercial fishermen while dragging. Party boat captains have located numerous wrecks in recent times. They usually try to keep them secret or share them only with other party boats. It was easier to do this years ago when navigators depended mostly on the compass and shore ranges. Today with sonar, loran, fathometers and other electronic equipment, keeping wrecks a secret is more difficult.

Some wrecks or fishing spots are named after party boat captains who first discovered them. Thus, off New Jersey, you'll find "Wrege's Wreck" named after Captain Fred Wrege who operated out of Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn. And there's "Bogan's Mountain," a wreck about 50 miles ESE of Manasquan Inlet, N.J. It was discovered by the well-known Bogan family whose skippers sail out of Brielle, N.J. Capt. Howard Bogan of the "Jamaica" fishes here for big cod and pollock. An 81-pound cod was taken from his boat.

Most wrecks, however, are named after the ships that sand there. The cruiser "San Diego" is located off the south shore of Long Island and provides good fishing for cod, pollock, blackfish and sea bass. There are also the "S.S. Iberia" off Long Beach and the "Black Warrior" off Rockaway, which sank in the 1800's and are still being fished by party and private boats.

Some of the wrecks are way offshore or long distances from port, so a few party boats make trips lasting up to two days to fish them. These are big enough to be equipped with bunks and a galley to serve meals. One such boat, the "Peconic Queen II," run by Captain Les Behan out of Montauk even makes a run of over a hundred miles to fish the Italian liner "Andrea Doria" sunk in 200 feet of water for big cod, pollock and hake.

There are two versions of how the "Cholera Banks" off Long Island got its name. One is that during the 1832 cholera epidemic in New York City, some residents hired a party boat to take them offshore to escape the sickness. While there they decided to pass the time by fishing and starting hauling in big sea bass. The other version is that commercial fishing smacks from Fulton Fish Market sought new fishing grounds and during the cholera epidemic ventured offshore and discovered the Cholera Banks. At any rate, this spot and the nearby "Middle Grounds" and "Angler Banks" are still good for cod, blackfish, sea bass, porgies, bluefish, mackerel and occasional tuna.

The spot called the "Farm" off New Jersey was supposed to be named by a commercial fisherman who was handlining and ran into a lot of fish. He told other fishermen that he'd found a "fish farm" and that name is still used today.

The "Klondike," a spot also found off New Jersey, got its name during the gold rush in the Klondike. It still produces cod, sea bass and blackfish.

Other fishing spots take their names from the type of bottom found there. Thus the "Mudhole" off New Jersey has a muddy bottom. It was famous years ago for giant tuna. Some big tuna are still taken there but it is fished more for school tuna, false alba-

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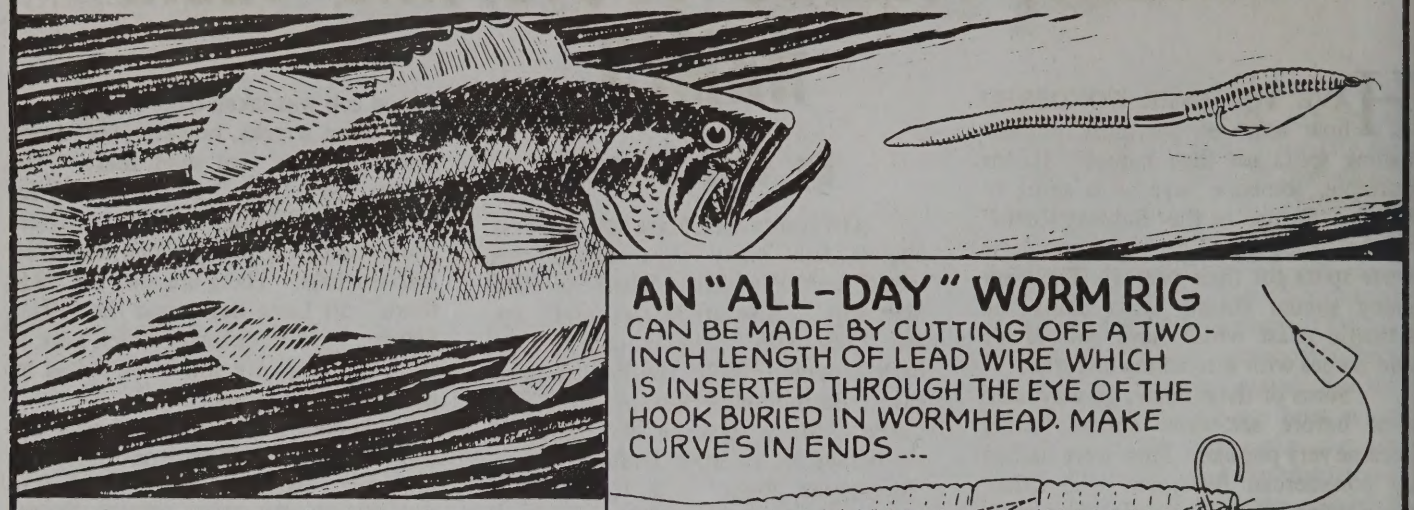
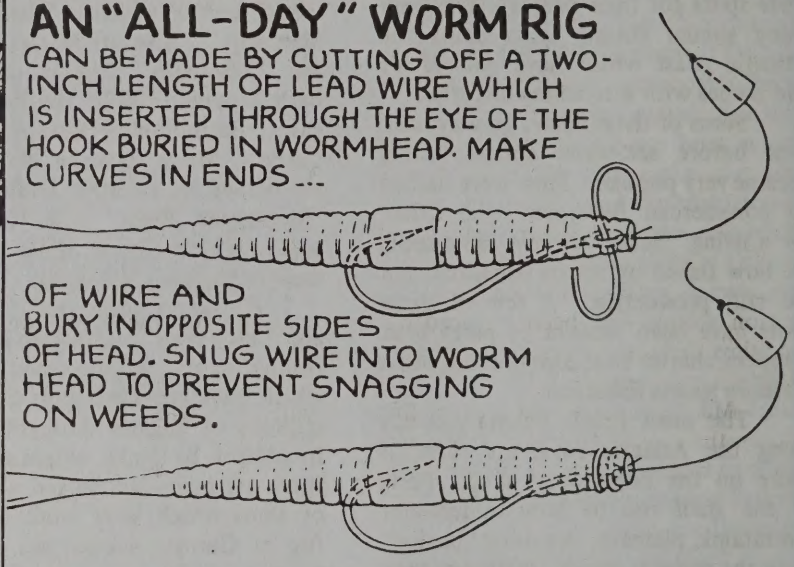
PLASTIC WORM TRICKS

BY FRED GUARDINEER



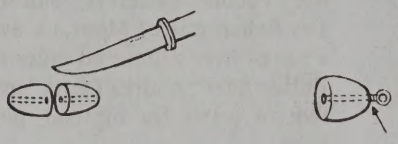
AN "ALL-DAY" WORM RIG

CAN BE MADE BY CUTTING OFF A TWO-INCH LENGTH OF LEAD WIRE WHICH IS INSERTED THROUGH THE EYE OF THE HOOK BURIED IN WORMHEAD. MAKE CURVES IN ENDS...



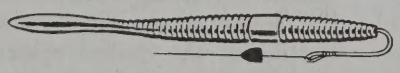
OF WIRE AND BURY IN OPPOSITE SIDES OF HEAD. SNUG WIRE INTO WORM HEAD TO PREVENT SNAGGING ON WEEDS.

HOW TO RIG THE SLIP-SINKER PLASTIC WORM

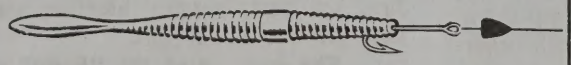


TO MAKE YOUR OWN SLIDING SINKER, CUT AN OVAL SINKER IN HALF OR REMOVE WIRE OF BELL SINKER BY SNIPPING OFF THE EYE.

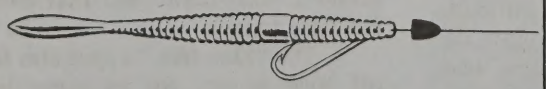
CUT OFF 1/4-INCH FROM HEAD OF WORM.



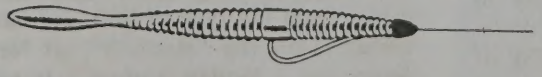
PUT SLIDING SINKER ON LINE, TIE LINE TO HOOK AND INSERT POINT IN WORM.



PUSH HOOK POINT 1/2-INCH INTO CENTER OF WORM HEAD AND BRING IT OUT THROUGH THE SIDE, AS SHOWN.

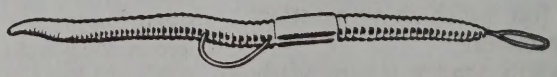


PULL HOOK UNTIL THE EYE SINKS INSIDE THE WORM HEAD.

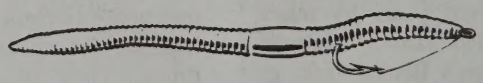


BURY THE BARB IN THE BODY AND BE SURE WORM LIES STRAIGHT TO PREVENT TWIST IN LINE.

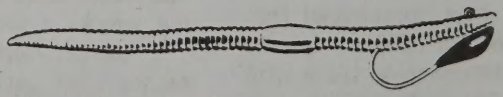
VARIOUS METHODS FOR RIGGING THE PLASTIC WORM



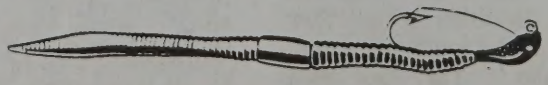
INSERT SNELLED HOOK INTO WORM HEAD AND BRING OUT IN CENTER. BURY BARB TO MAKE WEEDLESS. USE SPLIT SHOT OR SINKING WORM.



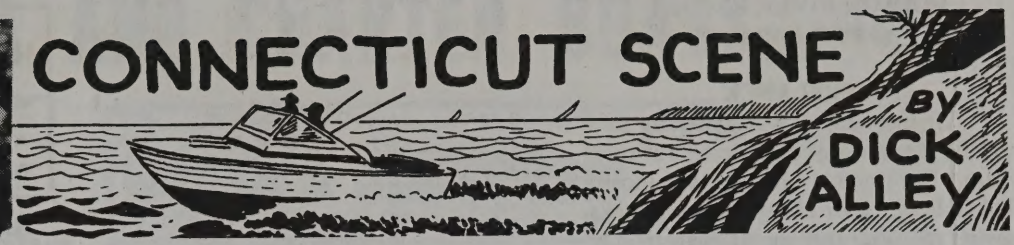
INSERT WEEDLESS HOOK THROUGH HEAD AND BRING OUT IN FORWARD PART OF BODY SO WORM LIES STRAIGHT PREVENTING LINE TWIST. USE A SINKING WORM OR SPLIT-SHOT SINKER.



THIS WORM HAS A LEAD-HEAD HOOK WITH AN EXTENDED EYE. BARB OF HOOK IS BURIED IN THE BODY TO MAKE THE LURE WEEDLESS.



THIS PLASTIC WORM IS MADE WITH LEAD HEAD AND WEEDLESS HOOK READY TO CAST.



SCHEDULE YOUR FISHING

IT HAPPENS EVERY YEAR, for me at least. Suddenly Thanksgiving has come and gone, and we gaze out on Long Island Sound, thinking of all those trips we'd thought about the previous winter, but had never taken.

We remember promising ourselves a day tussling with blackfish aboard a party boat, but somehow 8 hours of fast action fishing had been replaced by a fruitless 2 hour striped bass search in the Writers Cramp.

Mackerel came and went a little faster than usual this spring, and wind and weather combined to cut the three or four jigging trips we'd planned, down to a single fabulous day.

When the weakfish hit Heckscher Park, we planned a trip only a week in advance, and were swamped by those spring ruins that drowned the entire east coast.

This year, it's going to be different. At least that's what I tell myself. Now is the time to get out the diary, or if you failed to keep one, to dig out the seasons copies of the Long Island Fisherman, and plan for the year ahead.

Maybe you know an early season bass spot. If so, keep it a secret and good luck, but chances are, first line-wetting of the year will be a shot at spring flounder when they first exit the mud around St. Patricks Day.

If we're strictly thinking Long Island Sound, it'll be a month or more before those first stripers arrive, and though we truly love fresh flounder on the dinner table, we like to look for a little variety in our fishing methods. That's why we purchase a NY State License, and drive to the Amawalk or the Croton, or maybe make a day-long trip to the Ten Mile River for the first trout of the year.

By the time the Conn. trout season rolls around on the third Saturday in April, we can flip a coin to decide between trout and an exploratory trip for stripers which should be in Long Island Sound at about the same time. Then come blackfish, certainly the most neglected fishery in Long Island Sound. They're stubborn battlers, and to many a delicacy on the table. When they move in, they feed voraciously, and who among us can knock the pleasure in battling 3 to 10 pound fish all day long.

Somewhere along about this same time, mackerel have moved in by the millions, and it's time to load the buckets, whether to freeze the Bostons for bait, or for the table, or better yet to smoke up a supply of these tasty specimens. Mackerel are great sport, whether jigging, trolling or casting tiny silver spoons.

Next come the weakfish, which in the past three years have added a new dimension to fishing in Long Island Sound. Truly beautiful in physical appearance, and a challenge on rod and reel, these fish have been increasing in quality and quantity every season.

New lures like the Tri-Fin, the Bagley Shrimp, and the Boone Tout have leaped into prominence among weakfishermen. So many years have passed since the last good weakfish run, it's a new ball-game to all but the veteran anglers, and even they are trying the new methods and are successful.

Mid-May through mid-June are just so fantastic in Long Island Sound, that we almost forget about the fresh water, where trout fishing is at its peak, and bass are slamming anything passing their spawning beds. Everybody concentrating on bass and mackerel and weakfish and blacks, and flounder, and all the time trying to squeeze it all into a day of fishing. Of course, it's also a good time to schedule a trip to Rhode Island, where bass fishing is at its spring peak, and fluke are starting to hit really well.

Just about the time the schedule is laid out, and we're ready for a weekend of relaxing on Lake Candlewood, dangling a worm for yellow perch, the news hits that blues are in at Port Jeff, and the Candlewood Trip is forgotten in the helter-skelter of digging out the wire lines, trolling lures, and Diamond Jigs and Scotty Rigs. A few days later, the choppers are in mid-Sound, just playing on the surface, exciting prey on a calm day for the angler armed with an ultralight spinning rod and a generous supply of poppers.

Along about mid-July, after the big stripers have shown, things begin leveling off, and we find a few days for camping and swimming at the beach, scheduling most of our fishing for the dark hours when things begin to happen beneath the surface.

Suddenly September is here and it's spring all over again, with blues increasing their surface feeding, bass too feeding a little more often, and blacks also on the increase. Flounder move into the bays, a reminder to reserve a boat at Quincy, and fishing becomes a hectic activity again.

Comes December and another year has past, again with some regrets over trips that should have been, but possibly not as many if you planned well.

Now is the time to purchase one of those pocket-size daily reminders. Sit down with your fishing partner, do a little research through the past months of LIF, and come up with a fishing schedule for 1973.

Oh Yeh! Don't forget the winter months. Equipment maintenance, those flies you promised to tie, and that new one handed surf stick you wanted to make should all be scheduled for your winter time off.

After all, deer season doesn't end until Dec. 31st, then there's ice fishing, and those snow storms that are certain to ruin at least a couple of outdoor trips. Before we know it, we'll be dunking for flounder again. Some anglers didn't like the 1972 season very much, but when we look back, as we'll do in more detail in the weeks to come, it wasn't bad at all.

Save Our Stripers!

Write your Congressman TODAY!

HUDSON RIVER REPORT

by PETE BARRETT

VERPLANCK

Striper action was generally slow on the Hudson this past week, but there were a few notable catches made mostly by trollers. Carl Harty fished Thanksgiving morning trolling through the Oyster Beds (good readings but no fish) and then up near Con Ed's Indian Point plant where he took one schoolie. Later at Tellers Point he had a flurry of small stripers to only 3 lbs. trolled on umbrella rigs. Bass were reported at the Oyster Beds by those fishing the outgoing tide with sandworms. Beach fishermen are also taking some fish at Oscawanna Beach, Senasqua and Harmon. Tommy Cod are now available in Haverstraw Bay but most catches are small.

****

CROTON POINT

Crawbuckie Beach to the south of the Penn Central Bridge was the hot spot for Jay Mackey on an incoming tide for stripers up to 5½ lbs. Jay used sandworms to catch his string of fish and had follow ups on yellow bucktails but no takers however on the lures. Bishops Rocks, Scarborough and Tarrytown reported stripers and Tommy cod for cartoppers and shore based fishermen. Bill Livingston was back at Tellers Point with his tin boat casting bucktails across the sand bar. Says he lost a good sized bass and released over a dozen schoolies.

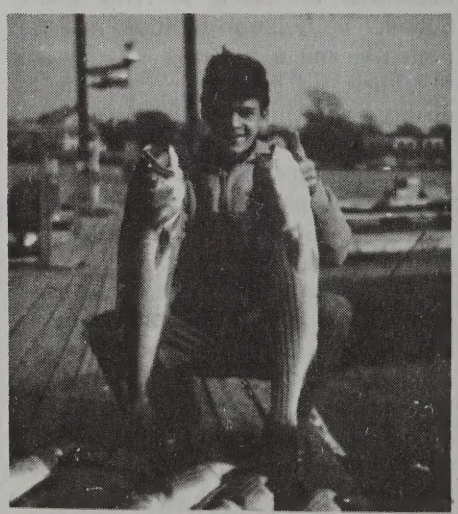
****

FORT LEE

HRFA member Tom Cullen reported stripers were back at the Spuyten Duyvil. However you can't prove it by me. No fish in two trips! Johnny Kineler as usual called to tell me he had taken some small bass north of S.D. at Riverdale. Johnny persists with the pencil poppers and sandworms as the best lure and bait. Tommy cod are hitting sands fast and furious along Edgewater and at the Interstate Park. Some stripers are showing according to Mike Merolla on the incoming tide at the white dock behind the Edgewater Texaco station. Trollers at Robbins Reef have been having fair success on stripers to 6 lbs. using sandworms and turkey bone rigs. One larger bass fell for a strip of squid trailed along with the sandworm. Up in Piermont, tommies and bass are mixed at the end of the pier and along the Blauvelt Park.

****

Bluefish trying to shake lure, 3 miles offshore of Moriches Inlet in July. Photo courtesy of Anthony Rizza of Holbrook.



16 year old Grag Ruggiero, of Brooklyn, with his first striped bass, caught at the Tin Can Grounds. The bass tipped the scales at 11 lbs. Five bass and two blues were caught by the young angler.

CLUB NEWS

One of the better fishing clubs on Long Island, the ATLANTIC ANGLERS of Massapequa, Inc., are seeking a few new members. The club is active in offshore big game fishing, inshore small game fishing as well as bya fishing. The only pre-requisite for membership is a desire to fish.

For information, write to the club's president, Mel Coppola, 1 Pepper Circle North, Massapequa, N.Y. 11758.

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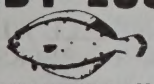
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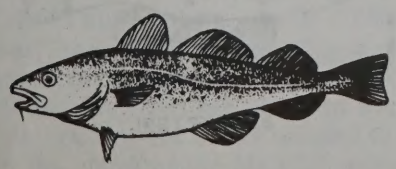
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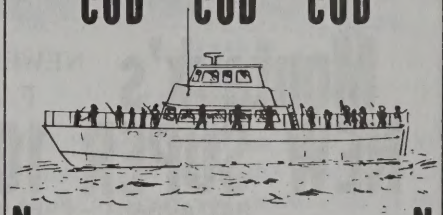
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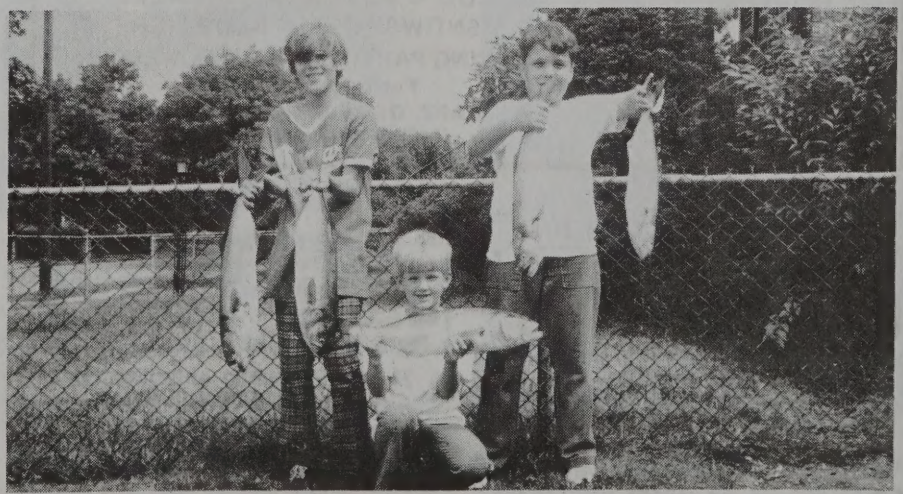
(left to right) Steve Maher, John Maher and John Horvath, all from North Bellmore, with some of the blues they caught while fishing in Cold Spring Harbor. The fish were caught by trolling and also on the surface.

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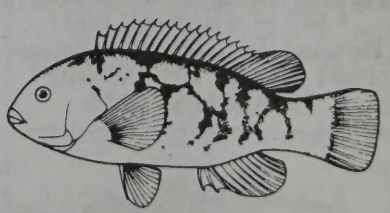


BLACKFISH

(Left to right) Robert Messans, Maryann Nicita, and Mr. Lovia (angler) all from Brooklyn with a 32 lb. striper caught at teh Tin Can Grounds on a spoon.

SANDY HOOK

Capt. Bunting of the "Sea Horse" reported that ling and whiting fishing has started with whiting being more predominant. These fish are on the small side but they are plentiful. Some of the action is taking place around Ambrose Light.

****

SHARK RIVER

Capt. Bobby Nash of the "Miss Belmar" reported that ling and whiting are being taken around the Mud Hole area. There are plenty of ling and whiting about one mile off of the beach at Shark River also.

****

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows, Jr. of the "Capt. Clark" reported that flounder fishing in Shinnecock Bay is very good. Fishing the Basket area, using worms and clam (worms are better), anglers had a nice catch of flounders up to 1½ lbs.

****

CAPTREE

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the "Speedy IV" reported that the codfishing is improving. The fish run from 7 to 15 lbs. with a few going to 20 and 30 lbs. Anglers have been getting dogfish mixed in with the 30 or so cod a day. The action is taking place sotuhwest of the inlet, between Jones and Fire Island.

****

LINDENHURST

Jack Schaefer of Charlie's Bait & Tackle reported that codfishing is very good in 80 ft. of water 165 degrees out of the inlet. These cod go to about 40 lbs. Flounder fishing in the State Channel is good. Flounder to 2 lbs. are being taken on worms. Cedar Beach had a run of bass during the week. These fish went up to 18 lbs. The surfmen using Rebels did well.

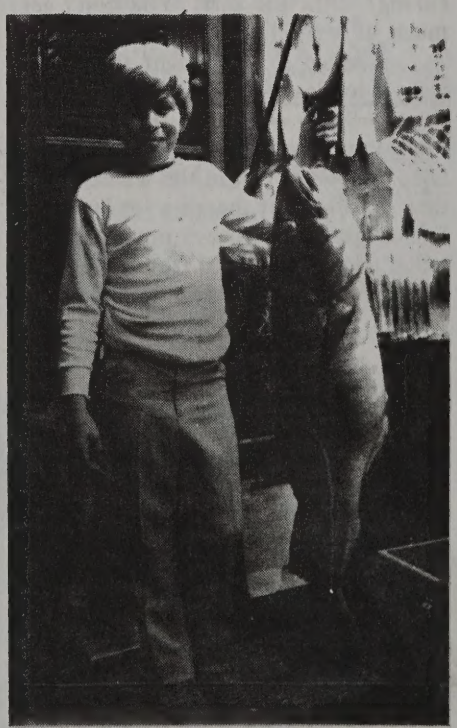
****

(Left to right) Steve Hidden of Rockaway, Mike Cazes of Rockville Centre, and Warren Hidden of Rockaway with some of the ten bass they caught off Sandy Hook on surgical tubes. Photo eourtesy of the charter boat "Kim."

MONTAUK

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the "Viking Star" reported that codfishing is very good. On Saturday, anglers had cod to 30 lbs. They also had plenty of blackfish. One of the blacks weighed in at 14 lbs. Most of the blackfish average from 7 to 10 lbs.

Capt. Les Behan of the "Peconic Queen II" reported that the codfishing at Block Island was pretty good during the week. On Saturday, things slowed down and Sunday was out. On Thursday, Fred Johnson was the pool winner with a 24 lb. cod.



Twelve year old Joseph Toscano of Massapequa with a 39 lb. cod caught while fishing aboard the "Deputy Dog" at the south east grounds. Photo courtesy of Causeway Bait & Tackle.

PATRIARCHS

On a jetty off the Rockaways: - "I'll never forget, one day . . . the water was flat as a blanketty-blank pancake. And a load of cow bass was rollin' right on to the beach in all the spearing. Me and this other guy got 7 of them cows. And some newspaper guys come down - we beat it (trying not to have the spot revealed) but they forgot their cameras and they didn't know fishin'. So it was in the papers the next day: - 'Two Unknown Fishermen Catch Seven Sea Bass.' - SEA bass! The dumb, blanketty-blank, blank-blanks!"

Zane Grey, the famous American author used to run the Swimmers-Versus-Anglers Contest in Central Park. Then one time Zane Grey hired Charlie and a friend for two days on a boat from Sheepshead Bay - "so he could learn what it was like, all about it. And he had his stenographer take down everything I did, right as I was doin' it. Can you imagine that?"

For five years Charlie worked a 23-foot lobster dory out of Sheepshead . . . He sport-fished a lot on boats; and most memorably on Charles Charbonier's boat, the 'Chi-Chi' out of Frank Tuma's Dock . . .

I asked, What is the best part of fishing? - "In the surf. You don't get much of a thrill on a boat" (period!).

I asked if he thought that there were a lot less fish in the water these days. - "You asked me the question: I'm gonna give you the answer. There is not a lot less fish in the water today than before. But there's a lot less BIG fish caught on the beach nowadays . . . I don't know if this is from pollution. I don't know if it's from the netters. I don't know if it's from all the boat noise. But I do know there's more people fishin' now than ever before . . . The beaches are too crowded . . . it's so easy for people to learn how to cast with that sissy reel. But there's not a half of them casting, that really knows how to fish . . . Now you asked me the question. I gave you the answer."

This writer, who used to be a pretty good fisherman, needed a cigarette at this point and I offered one of mine to Charlie. - "You smokin' one of them sissy cigarettes?" - And he took out a non-filter. And he lit my cigarette with a most steady hand.

What chief advice would he give to beginners. - "When you find the fish, you're a made man. When the fish are schooled up and feedin' and you find them, it often doesn't matter what you use. But when they're out there just playin' around, pickin', fussy, then you've got to use a good lure; and with technique . . . And the retrieve is a lot slower for bass than for blues."

I asked if there was any other thing in the surf greatly different today from before. - "People helped each other in the surf, more than they do now."

Let the reader remember again that our tough patriarch is pushing 80 years. - "You don't see too many people movin' around at my age. People get old, because they're not active. Maybe it's the idea of gettin' old that gets them. Then they really go to pot. Maybe it's luck too. But you have to keep interested. You have to enjoy something, and something healthy."

Now what if I mention that Charlie Graves is a disabled war veteran! Gassed with mustard gas in the First World War. - "It's the source of all my ailments."

All his ailments! He is still under treatment by the government doctors. - "I've had so many stomach operations, it's not funny." - Five years ago Charlie was pronounced dead. His friends were notified and they came to the hospital. Somehow, Charlie revived. - "The doctors still don't understand it. And two days after I revived, the nurses found me tryin' to walk around in my room . . The nurses said to me, they said: 'Boy, you must be really strong.' I looked at them nurses: 'Listen honeys' - I told them - 'I USED to be strong. I ain't STRONG any more!' "

* * *

"There was only two things in life I was ever interested in. And now I can only do one of them. Fishin'. And I had a lot of opportunity in my time - you know - to make a lot of money. But I never cared about it."

Sometimes a fellow finds this 'old man' on a beach or in a parking field, and the fellow learns who he is and then he tries to buy some jigs; or even the molds. Charlie gets very angry, I'm told; and it can be most unpleasant. Charlie is not selling anything.

But you would be very lucky to come into one of those chrome jigs. And if you look on its reverse side, you will see the initials: C.G. These stand for Charlie Graves: Master Luremaker and the toughest man alive; true Sport Fisherman, and a very great Patriarch of the Surf.

(DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, BROOKLYN CHAPTER 28, ROOM 6, BOROUGH HALL, BROOKLYN, N.Y.)

SMALL BOATS

feel a series of light taps, and drive the hook home. My rod almost doubles up; this is no cod. A 5 pound blackfish comes aboard. After two more cod (one a nice size), the action slows, and I pick up and head further West. First Terry Point, then West again to Rocky Point; the day's catch is mounting up.

As all too soon the sun begins its descent into the West, I think of the long run back to Southold, and we call it a day and head in. A good mixed bag of cod and blacks and even one large flounder (how I hooked him on that 2/0, I'll never know), and pleasant late fall weather have combined to make it a memorable day. Wait a minute, isn't that a ghostly schooner looming out of the twilight mist? Good luck and tight lines.

FISHING SPOTS

core, bluefish and sharks nowadays.

The "Subway Rocks" near Ambrose Light got its name from the rocks and rubble dumped there by barges when the New York City subway was built. And the "Tin Can Grounds" located between Ambrose Channel and cans and other garbage dumped there.

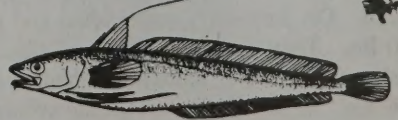
Some spots such as the "Mussel Beds," "Clam Beds" and "Scallop Ridge" were named after the kind of shellfish found there.

Still other spots such as the "Tea Wreck" and "Oil Spot" were named after the cargoes they carried when sunk.

The "17 Fathoms" grounds off New Jersey are supposed to be named after the depth of the water, but this varies here and only a relatively small section is actually 17 fathoms.

And finally there is a spot off Long Branch, N.J. which was called "Never Fail" because even on the poorest days it would produce a few fish.

Many wrecks and fishing spots have no names, but along with those we just covered, many are clearly marked on fishing charts and maps which are sold at many coastal marinas and tackle shops.



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WANTAGH

Frank Hecker of the Causeway Bait & Tackle reported that flounder are being caught in the bay area. "Find a deep hole and try your luck. Use worms and bundle up against the cold and you may come home with some nice flounder." The bridges or Squaw Island will also produce some flounder action. Most of the fish are small, however, an occasional biggie is mixed in.

****

FREEPORT

Capt. Marty Dombrowski of the "Capt. Marty" reported that codfishing is pretty good. Marty had cod up to 22 lbs. and mackerel to 1½ lbs. The "Aloma" had cod to 35 lbs. The "Jack VI" and "Capt. Al," fishing southeast of the inlet in 80 to 100 ft. of water, also had their share of cod.

Charles Foisy with a 27 lb. 13 oz. bass caught surfcasting at Montauk. action took place in early November.

CONSERVATION COMMENTS
by PAUL M. KELSEY

DEER WEIGHT: "How much does it weigh?" is more often than not the first question that the successful deer hunter will ask the biologist at a deer checking station. After dragging it for what seemed like miles, he has probably become over-impressed by its size, particularly if he did not have snow to reduce the friction of the drag.

After aging the deer, measuring its antler beam diameter, and counting the number of points, the checker will put on a bit of showmanship by pounding the deer and squinting at it knowingly, before making his estimate and adding, "Give or take two or three pounds." Chances are it is well below the hunter's estimate.

If the deer checking business isn't too heavy, he will weigh it for you and for the record. Probably the two or three pounds grace bracketed the weight on the scales. It wasn't by chance that he was so close. He was probably playing the statistics established over years of checking deer through the same station.

For almost 20 years I have been watching bucks coming out of southern Chenango and northern Broome Counties. Three out of four are yearlings. Those 17 months old have averaged 109 pounds, 18 months have averaged 116 pounds, and those 19 months have averaged 123 pounds. If the antlers are a little bigger than average, I add appropriate poundage, or subtract if they are smaller.

A great variety of deer go into making up these averages. I recall one year when the Howland Island yearlings averaged 127 pounds, but included a petite 97 pounder and an enormous 167 pounder. A 10 percent deviation from the average, however, will probably cover eight out of ten deer.

There are three factors determining the weight of a deer: its age, the quality of the basic soil of its range, and the amount of good winter food available.

Since bucks continue to grow until they are about five years old, it is obvious that older ones will outweigh their younger brothers from the same range. Going back to those Chenango-Broome County averages, the yearlings averaged 116 pounds, those two and a half were 137 pounds, those three and a half averaged 156 pounds, and not enough lived to be four and a half to give a good figure.

If you want a big deer, your best odds will be where they have a chance to grow up. In the Adirondacks, during periods when we have a normal age composition, about one-quarter of the bucks are four and a half or over, while in the southern tier only about two percent live that long.

Agriculturists have long recognized that basic soil fertility is transferred through plants that grow on the land to animals feeding on them. The best soils have maintained a good agricultural economy while poor soils have not. Land that will produce the best cows will also produce the best deer. This shows clearly in the review of our figures from the Chenango-Broome area and the Howland Island Wildlife Management Area in more fertile Cayuga County where yearling bucks average about 10 pounds heavier.

Where there are too many mouths to feed during critical winter months, deer that do not starve may be dragged so far down in vitality that their growth is retarded. This was clearly shown in Chenango-Broome area when yearling bucks that had survived the starvation winter of 1955-56 averaged six pounds less than normal.

Once the hunter has been convinced that the checking station scales give true weight, and that his imagined 150-pound buck weighs a mere 115, two additional questions often follow. What was the live weight of the deer? How much edible meat is in the deer?

More often than not the sportsman's original guess was fairly close to the live weight. For a simple rule of thumb, for each three pounds of field dressed weight, add one pound to get the live weight.

To estimate edible meat in a well-handled carcass, subtract one pound for each four pounds of field dressed weight. There is no rule of thumb to account for the loss of meat through misuse and abuse.

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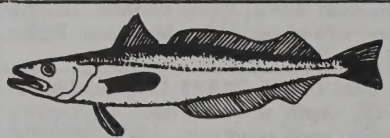

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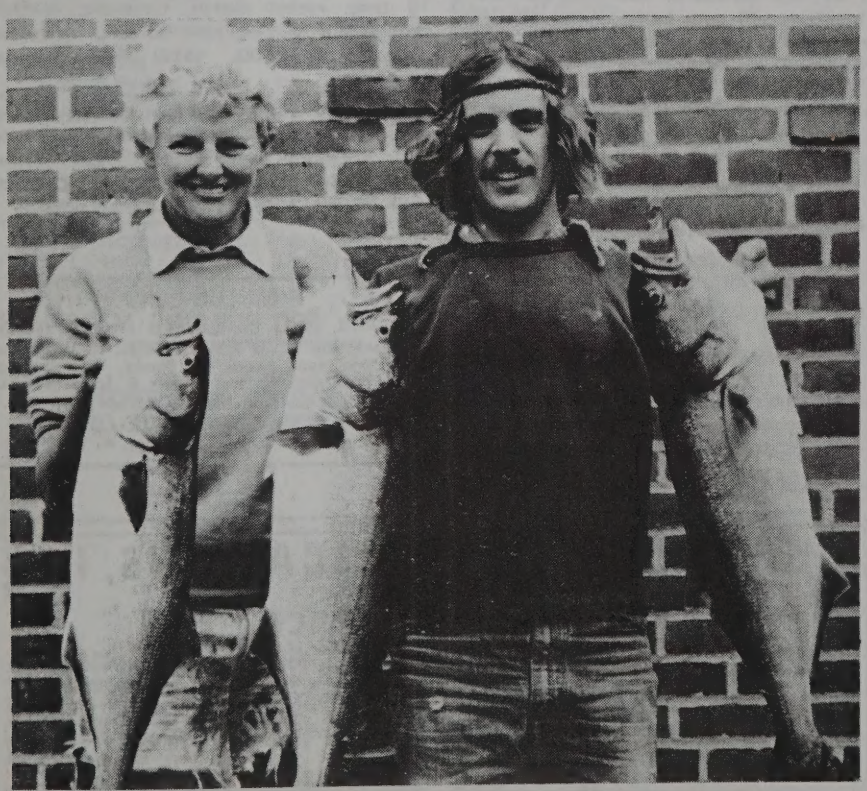

Mrs. Wilbur Falk and Robert Bova, of Branford, Conn., with 3 bluefish up to 12 lbs. caught off Outer Island, Conn.

Joe Narbutt, of Richmond Hill, caught this 53 lb. striped bass. Photo courtesy of Artie's Paramount Service & Marine Inc.

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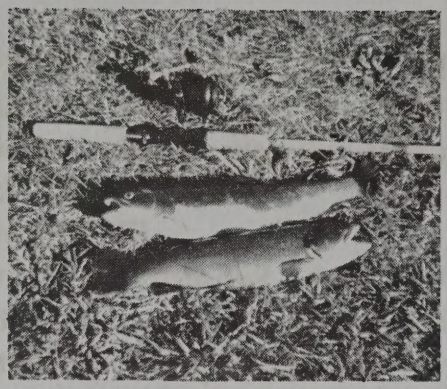
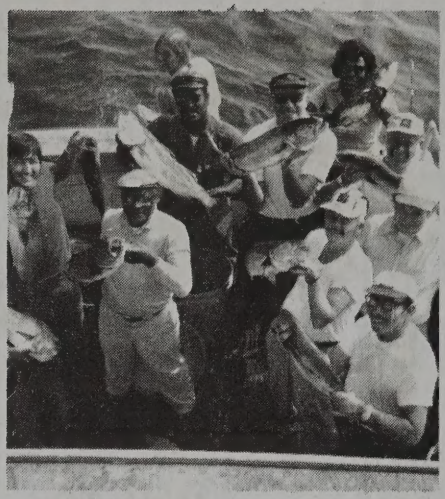
Maureen and Charles Murphy, of Ozone Park, Queens, with a 56 and a 58 lb. codfish. Photo courtesy of the "Peconic Queen."



I received this picture of two nice brown trout taken in the Nissequogue, from Mr. Phil Uruburu. Thanks for the letter Phil, and keep up the good work.
Don



Members of the Co-op City Anlgers on a recent bluefish trip aboard the "Capt. Bob" out of Connecticut.

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Sat.	4:24	4:41
Sun.	5:09	5:28
Mon.	5:54	6:11
Tues.	6:31	6:49
Wed.	7:08	7:28
Thur.	7:46	8:05
	8:21	8:43

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Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0	25
Zachs Bay	+1	25
Oligo Island	+2	25
Seaford Harbor	+2	05
FIRE ISLAND INLET	-0	38
West Great South Bay	+2	10
Heckscher State Park	+3	20
East Great South Bay	+3	44
MORICHES INLET	-0	56
Smiths Point	+3	28
Harts Cove	+1	30
Potuak Point	+3	35
SHINNECOCK INLET	-0	50
East Quogue	+2	45
Shinnecock Canal	+1	18
Indian Reservation	+3	05

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
WILLETS POINT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.		
Fri.	7:40	8:11
Sat.	8:31	8:59
Sun.	9:12	9:46
Mon.	9:55	10:27
Tues.	10:30	11:02
Wed.	10:55	11:31
Thur.	11:11	11:47
	11:40	------

	H.	M.
Little Neck Bay	-0	10
Execution Light	-0	06
Manhasset Bay	-0	01
Hempstead Harbor	-0	11
City Island	-0	03
Rye Beach	-0	28

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
BRIDGEPORT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.		
Fri.	6:56	7:24
Sat.	7:45	8:13
Sun.	8:32	9:02
Mon.	9:15	9:45
Tues.	9:57	10:26
Wed.	10:37	11:07
Thur.	11:16	11:46
	11:55	------

	H.	M.
Lloyd Point	+0	08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	08
Bayville Bridge	+0	13
Eatons Neck Point	+0	03
Northport Bay	+0	03
Norwalk Islands	+0	10
Smithtown Bay	-0	03
Cranes Neck Point	+0	05
Port Jeff Harbor	+0	03
New Haven Harbor	-0	08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0	08
Herod Point	-0	07
Mattituck Inlet	+0	19
Horton Point	-0	20
Truman Beach	-0	42

TIDES: B.I. SOUND
NEW LONDON STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	5:23	5:49
Fri.	6:08	6:36
Sat.	6:51	7:19
Sun.	7:24	7:54
Mon.	8:01	8:33
Tues.	8:36	9:10
Wed.	9:11	9:49
Thur.	9:48	10:27

	H.	M.
Orient Point	+0	27
Connecticut River	+1	10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0	12
Greenport	+1	04
Southold	+1	43
New Suffolk	+2	26
South Jamesport	+2	32
Shinnecock Canal	+2	33
Noyack Bay	+2	05
Sag Harbor	+0	59
Gardiners Bay	+0	21
Promised Land (Napeague)	-0	14
Fort Pond Bay	-0	29
Montauk Inlet	-0	25
Montauk Point	-1	13

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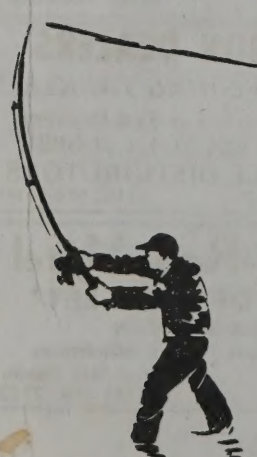

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